

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TOKYO 10459 120929Z

11

ACTION OES-06

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R 120819Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 734

UNCLAS TOKYO 10459

DEPT. PASS TO DOI/USGS, NSF

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, JA

SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE PREDICTION

1. TOKYO METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT HAS SPONSORED STUDY OF RADON CONCENTRATIONS IN WATER DRAWN FROM 302 WELLS IN TOKYO, 94 IN SAITAMA PREFECTURE, 17 IN KANAGAWA PREFECTURE, AND 8 IN CHIBA PREFECTURE. OUT OF TOTAL OF 421 WELLS, 48 WERE SAMPLED PERIODICALLY FROM NOVEMBER 1974 TO MARCH 1976 TO OBTAIN STATISTICAL BASELINE. RESULTS SHOWED NO REPEAT NO FLUCTUATIONS SIGNIFICANT ENOUGH TO CAUSE CONCERN ABOUT NEAR-TERM MAJOR EARTH-QUAKE WITH EPICENTER IN TOKYO REGION, ACCORDING TO GROUP OF SEISMOLOGISTS WHO ANALYZED DATA.

2. COMMENT: DURING PAST YEAR THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL PREDICTIONS BY OTHERS THAT TOKYO WOULD EXPERIENCE MAJOR QUAKE SOON. THESE WERE GIVEN CREDENCE BY RELEASE OF STUDY SHOWING THE EXTENT OF DAMAGE THAT WOULD BE EXPERIENCED IN CENTRAL TOKYO IF LARGE QUAKE AND CONSEQUENT FIRES WERE TO OCCUR, CAUSING CONSIDERABLE SEGMENT OF POPULATION TO BECOME NERVOUS IN THIS QUAKE-PRONE REGION. LATEST STUDY MAY SERVE TO ASSUAGE LOCAL FEARS--FOR THE TIME BEING.

H?S**C*C 5**V*:*B**Y:*41***P(****4T5**)R*A*B6*?G*V*E**X**(*VX*2****B*5****Y***2*72*##*O/XP***5J****0*KA*WQ***U R
'*IF*A6**(QC****:*M**&***** **,*T****(*C7*)*ZQ ****;\$-)/**
*(*G?***7Z***
C*8O ***.*,*1*Z3UIMAFVVZCZ

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